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Reserve readings

ASP 608



DIM 29-89

December 1989



Defense Intelligence Memorandum

**China: Arms Sales and Proliferation
of Missile and Nuclear Technology (U)**

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D 843
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C-1

Key Judgments



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G-86858
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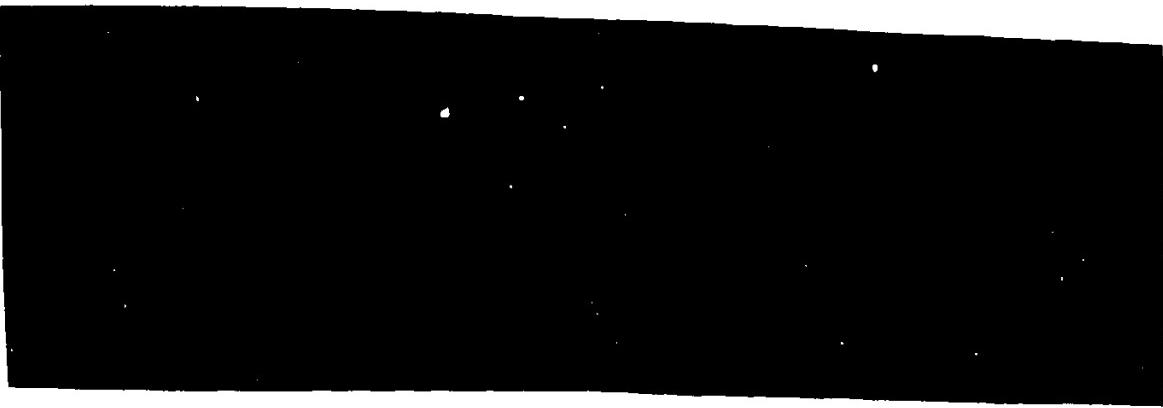
Arms Sales Policy



■ China responded to international pressure by proclaiming that its arms sales:

- Should help strengthen the legitimate self-defense capability of the country concerned.
- Should help safeguard and promote peace, security, and stability in the regions concerned.
- Should not be used to interfere in the internal affairs of other nations.

While intended to assure the United States and the West that China would act responsibly, these "three principles" placed no firm limits on China's actions. Beijing has continued to assert that it has a sovereign right to sell arms to whomever it judges appropriate. Criticism by third parties is resented.





[REDACTED] Incentives to sell arms are still quite high, and disincentives are considerably weakened. China is expected to continue to assert its role as an independent supplier of low cost military equipment, ballistic missile systems, and technology not available from other sources. Its arms sales will remain a frustrating irritant, even if more normal US-Chinese relations resume.

(U) This memorandum contains information as of 4 December 1989.

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